

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR OECD CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER-
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICIES

REF: STATE 210637

PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO DR. ALVAREZ, OECD SEC.
ON SPT (73) 16 PREPARED FOR CSTP CONSIDERATION (AGENDA 10
(B)):

1. PROPOSAL FOR SO-CALLED "HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFING" OUTLINED
IN DOCUMENT SPT (73) 16 DATED 11 OCTOBER 1973 WAS PREPARED
IN RESPONSE TO A CSTP INSTRUCTION THAT A PLAN FOR A
"CONFERENCE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL" BE SUBMITTED TO CSTP
FOR CONSIDERATION. THE GO-AHEAD TO PLAN THE "HIGH-LEVEL
BRIEFING" WAS GIVEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CSTP DISAPPROVAL
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OF A PROPOSAL THAT AN EXPANDED FORUM TYPE CONFERENCE ON

THE SUBJECT COMPUTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS BE HELD AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE FORUM ON THIS SUBJECT HELD BY THE CUG LAST NOVEMBER. THAT DISAPPROVAL WAS BASED IN PART ON BUDGETARY AND RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AND IN PART ON THE BASIS THAT THE VALUE OF AN EXPANDED FORUM WAS NOT EVIDENT. THE APPROVAL FOR PLANNING TOWARD THE "HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFING" CONTEMPLATED A SMALLER SIZED MEETING AMONG HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS AND WAS PREDICATED ON THE BASIS THAT THE VALUE OF AN INTERCHANGE AMONG SUCH OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME WOULD BE MADE EVIDENT.

2. THE CONFERENCE AS NOW PROPOSED WOULD APPEAR TO BE MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CONCEPT OF A LARGER FORUM TYPE CONFERENCE AND SEEMS TO HAVE SET ASIDE THE IDEA OF SPECIFIC INTERCHANGE AMONG HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS. THE PLAN, WHILE CONTAINING MANY ASSERTIONS AND POSING MANY QUESTIONS, PRESENTS NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT AN INTERCHANGE OF THIS KIND IS EITHER NEEDED OR DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME.

3. ACCORDINGLY US REP WILL TAKE POSITION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES AT CSTP MEETING NOV. 19-20, 1973:

A. THE PLAN PROPOSED IN SPT (73) 16 IS INADEQUATE FOR A TOP-LEVEL BRIEFING. WE BELIEVE SEMINAR MUST FOCUS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES OF GREATEST INTEREST TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFICS, WE BELIEVE ITEMS A, B AND C OF PARA 18 OF REFERENCE SHOULD BE DOWNGRADED OR ELIMINATED. WE BELIEVE ATTENDANCE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY SELECTED AND BE BY INVITATION.

B. THE ULTIMATE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING ANY PROPOSAL FOR AN OPEN FORUM CONFERENCE, WILL HAVE TO BE JUDGED ON ITS OWN MERITS AGAINST CSTP TOTAL PRIORITIES.

C. THE US VIEWS AN OPEN FORUM TYPE CONFERENCE AS BEING OF LIMITED UTILITY AT THIS TIME. RUSH
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